

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON

March 27, 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

From: T - Lucy Wilson Benson *LWB*

SOA
Ag File
III
HR...

This morning I called a meeting of the principals involved in the attached Argentine arms transfer memo. No real consensus developed out of that meeting but the basic issues that divide the various bureaus did become crystal clear. They are:

-- the question of tactics and whether approval or denial of arms transfers will be the more effective instrument for change;

-- whether approval would damage the integrity of our human rights policy domestically and abroad; and

-- what we could defend on the Hill.

Having listened to the arguments, I recommend the following:

(1) that you approve the spare parts option;

(2) that you authorize a team of military officers to present our human rights position to the Argentine government in conjunction with our Ambassador;

(3) that you disapprove the training option; and sign the letter at Tab 7.

(4) that you approve the pipeline cases in principle, recognizing that we lack a full accounting from DOD of what exactly is in the FMS pipeline (we have a fairly good handle on the commercial pipeline). We will ask DOD for a pipeline accounting and will do a case-by-case review of it. If there are any inappropriate items, e.g., equipment for law enforcement agencies, we will disapprove shipment.

You should know, in this connection, that we are now advising manufacturers that henceforth we will not approve any arms sales promotion activities in Argentina or issue positive advisory opinions for future sales. This will prevent new items from entering the pipeline.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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Box 13

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